

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-20 RSC-01 AID-20 EB-11 NEA-10 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 EA-11 L-03 OIC-04 CIAE-00

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R 051001Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3551

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS ROME 3027

FODAG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: AORG, FAO, ECAFE

SUBJ: PROPOSED ECAFE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

/SUMMARY/: FAO CALLED "INFORMATIONAL" MEETING CERTAIN PERM REPS MARCH 1 TO REPORT PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT ECAFE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. MATTER TO BE DECIDED BY 30TH SESSION ECAFE, MARCH 27-APRIL 8, 1974, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA. FAO FEELS COMMITTEE COULD DUPLICATE CURRENT FAO ACTIVITIES IN REGION AND, AS PROPOSED, LIKELY WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE. FAO REPORTED NEGOTIATION WITH ECAFE IN ATTEMPT REACH WORKABLE SOLUTION UNSECCESFUL. DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING MAIN EVENTS TO DATE POUCHED STATE AND USDA. /END SUMMARY/.

1. FAO ADG OJALA (ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DEPARTMENT) CALLED MEETING PERM REPS WHOSE COUNTRIES ARE MEMBERS BOTH ECAFE AND FAO ON FRIDAY, MARCH 1. OJALA STATED HE WISHED GOVERNMENTS BE AWARE THROUGH FAO CHANNELS THAT 30TH SESSION ECAFE MARCH 28 TO APRIL 9, 1974, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, WILL CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT THIS COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED FROM COMMISSION RESOLUTION 137, APPARENTLY ADOPTED BY 29TH SESSION APRIL 1973.

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2. RESOLUTION 137 REQUESTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ECAFE EXPLORE WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING ECAFE'S PERFORMANCE IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POSSIBILITIES OF STRENGTHENING THE PRESENTLY EXISTING JOINT ECAFE/FAO AGRICULTURE DIVISION. SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION RESOLUTION, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY APPARENTLY MET WITH PERM REPS TO ECAFE AND PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT STANDING COMMITTEE DEVELOPED. REPORTEDLY ECAFE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS THEN CONTACTED FAO D-G BOERMA IN THIS REGARD.

3. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT ACCELERATION AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ASIA AND FAR EAST IS GOAL MEMBERS BOTH ECAFE AND FAO, BOERMA WROTE MARAMIS ON NOV. 26, 1973 EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE STANDING COMMITTEE AS PROPOSED. HE FELT SUCH COMMITTEE, IF ESTABLISHED, WOULD NEED BE JOINTLY SPONSORED AND SERVICED, PERHAPS BY EXISTING JOINT ECAFE/FAO AGRICULTURE DIVISION. TO CONSIDER SUCH A COMMITTEE WITHOUT JOINT SPONSORSHIP WOULD, IN EYES FAO, RISK DUPLICATION OF WORK HANDLED BY FAO REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE ITSELF.

4. ON OTHER HAND AND TO BE HELPFULLY RESPONSIVE, BOERMA SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL WHEREBY ECAFE MIGHT CONSIDER SERVICES OF /AD HOC/ INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS CONVENED JOINTLY TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD FIRST BE IDENTIFIED BY GENERAL DEBATES IN BOTH ECAFE AND FAO. HE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR /AD HOC/ MEETINGS AS OPPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE SO GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE ABLE PROVIDE DELEGATES HAVING.

5. ACCORDING OJALA, ORGANIZATION EXPECTED THESE VIEWS BE CONSIDERED BY AN EXPERT GROUP MEETING WHICH MARAMIS AND BOERMA HAD AGREED TO JOINTLY CONVEY IN JANUARY 1974. LATTER MEETING, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE EITHER NOT RECEIVED OR DISREGARDED FAO'S VIEWS. IT CLEARLY RECOMMENDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDING COMMITTEE. ACCORDING OJALA, FAO UNDERSTANDS THAT ECAFE SECRETARIAT PREPARING "WORKING PAPER" FOR 30TH SESSION ECAFE WHICH WILL GIVE NO CONSIDERATION TO FAO'S VIEW ON NEED FOR JOINT SPONSORSHIP BUT WILL, IN SOME FASHION, LOOK TOWARDS JOINT SERVICING. FAO, THEREFORE, HAS RESERVED ITS POSITION.

6. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, OJALA WANTED GOVERNMENTS BE AWARE OF FAO
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CONCERN AND IMPLIED ORGANIZATION'S VIEWS MIGHT NOT BE FULLY KNOWN TO ECAFE PERM REPS. HE PROVIDED COPIES OF ABOVE-CITED RESOLUTION, THE REPORT OF EXPERT GROUP AND D-G'S LETTER TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS. COPIES THESE DOCUMENTS POUCHED STATE, IO/AGR AND IOS/USDA. OJALA SAID MATTER HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN BROUGHT ATTENTION FAO MEMBERS BUT, IN LIGHT BEARING ON FAO'S WORK IN REGION, WOULD BE REPORTED APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. HE SAID STANDING COMMITTEE,

IF DECIDED BY ECAFE, WOULD STILL REQUIRE ECOSOC APPROVAL IN LIGHT
ARTICLE 13 OF ECAFE TERMS OF REFERENCE. VOLPE

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